



03500.015590

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
NORIAKI MATSUI ) Examiner: Cheukfan Lee  
Application No.: 09/909,877 ) Group Art Unit: 2622  
Filed: July 23, 2001 ) Confirmation No.: 3238  
For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS ) Allowed: December 22, 2004  
January 19, 2005

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2)

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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents; English-language translations of JP Nos. S58-23057 and 2000-115455; and English-language abstracts of JP Nos. H09-62064, H04-275771, and S62-279782 are enclosed.

Each of the listed foreign patent documents in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement. In particular, each of the listed foreign documents was first cited in a Notification of Reason for Refusal (copy

enclosed) dated October 22, 2004, and issued on October 26, 2004, in connection with Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-224495 (the application from which the above-captioned application claims priority).

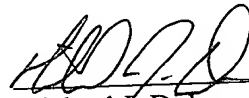
For the Examiner's convenience, also enclosed are U.S. patents from the same patent families as some of the listed Japanese applications. Specifically, U.S. Patent No. 5,325,210 is related to JP No. H04-275771, and U.S. Patent No. 4,870,501 is related to JP No. S62-279782. These U.S. patents were not cited in the Japanese Notification of Reasons for Refusal.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

In addition, enclosed is a check for \$180.00, which, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2), must be submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in this fee, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Didas  
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